

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 ANKARA 000573

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR INR/R/MR, EUR/SE, EUR/PD, NEA/PD, DRL
JCS PASS J-5/CDR S. WRIGHT

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [TU](#)

SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT
THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2004

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEALS

Bush fully assures Erdogan on northern Iraq - Hurriyet
Bush promises Erdogan a united Iraq - Milliyet
Bush, Erdogan fully agree on Iraq, Cyprus - Turkiye
Cheney: Turkey will be a model for the Middle East - Sabah
Bush may visit Ankara in June - Sabah
Erdogan praises Iran to Jewish representatives in US -
Milliyet
Erdogan's attitude encouraging - Annan - Turkiye
Annan: Time running out for Cyprus solution - Milliyet
Powell a 'facilitator' for Cyprus - Hurriyet

OPINION MAKERS

Turkey got what it wanted on Iraq, Cyprus - Radikal
Bush asks Powell to accelerate Cyprus solution - Cumhuriyet
Annan signals he may resume Cyprus talks - Radikal
Annan wants Cyprus agreement in March, referenda in April -
Zaman
Papadopolous agrees to unconditional Cyprus talks - Radikal
Bush to officially visit Ankara in June - Zaman
US Muslim leaders say Turkey a model for Islamic world -
Cumhuriyet
Bremer: No room for PKK/KADEK in Iraq - Cumhuriyet
John Kerry wins the second round - Zaman

BRIEFING

Erdogan in US: Dailies give extensive front-page coverage to the Bush-Erdogan meeting at the White House on Wednesday. Turkey got from the Americans assurances regarding Cyprus peace talks, Iraq's territorial integrity, and the PKK threat in northern Iraq. Bush urged Erdogan to seek compromise in Cyprus within the framework of the Annan Plan, not to object to a federation in Iraq, and to improve ties with Armenia. Bush assured Erdogan that Kurdish demands for an ethnic federation in Iraq would not be accepted, and promised to eliminate the PKK threat from the region. Bush declined to make clear, specific pledges for removal of the PKK terror threat in northern Iraq, according to "Cumhuriyet." The Turks expect the Americans first to close the Mahmur refugee camp in the region. The situation of the Turkmen was not raised at the meeting. Bush tasked Secretary Powell to facilitate Cyprus talks through meetings

SIPDIS

with UN Secretary General Annan. Bush and Erdogan reached agreement on resuming Cyprus negotiations between the Turkish and Greek Cypriots in Geneva on February 9, "Cumhuriyet" claims. President Bush may officially visit Ankara after attending the NATO Summit in Istanbul in June.

Cyprus: At a joint press conference with EU Commission President Prodi, UN Secretary General Annan said that if a compromise is reached on Cyprus by late March, the Cypriot sides could hold simultaneous referenda in April, paving the path to EU membership for a reunited Cyprus. Annan described his meeting with Erdogan in Davos as 'encouraging,' and said he would decide whether to resume talks after meeting with all sides involved in the Cyprus issue.

Deputy Chief of TGS visits Israel: Deputy Chief of TGS General Ilker Basbug went to Israel on Tuesday, accompanied by a delegation of 45 officials from the TGS, the Defense Ministry, and the Defense Industry Undersecretariat. Turks will discuss with the Israelis recent developments in Iraq, cooperation in the defense industry, and the exchange of intelligence in the wake of the fundamentalist terror attacks in Istanbul last November.

Armenian reaction to Erdogan remarks in US: Armenia's Foreign Minister Oskanjan rejected Prime Minister Erdogan's proposal for to remove references to genocide from the history books. Armenia will continue to work to gain international recognition for its genocide claims, Oskanyan stressed. Oskanyan, however, found Erdogan 'sincere' in his effort to repair the strains with Armenia when the Turkish prime minister acknowledged that both sides had responsibility for past atrocities.

EDITORIAL OPINION: US-TURKEY RELATIONS

"Analyzing the Summit"
Sedat Ergin commented on the results of the Oval office meeting in the mass appeal Hurriyet (1/29): "The meeting created an opportunity for Washington to give strong messages to international public opinion on both the Iraq and Cyprus issues. However, the Bush administration avoided making a strongly-worded statement about Iraq. No questions from the press were taken following the statements by Erdogan and Bush, and Bush did not provide any detail about a possible federation in Iraq. On Cyprus, President Bush only voiced his satisfaction with the Cyprus briefing provided by Erdogan. The Turkish side was hoping to see stronger words and stronger messages from Bush, but it didn't happen. . The Kirkuk-Turkoman issue was absent from the Oval Office agenda. It was believed that Erdogan would bring up this issue, but he did not. This will disappoint the expectations of Turkish public opinion. . President Bush reiterated the official American commitment to eliminate the PKK in northern Iraq. The statement from Paul Bremer in this respect pleased the Turkish side. Yet it remains unclear when the US is going to start taking concrete steps on this commitment."

"Strategic Tuning with the US"
Sami Kohen observed in the mass appeal Milliyet (1/29): "Turkey's interests and its strategic vision mostly match with that of the United States. The differences may appear sometimes, as in northern Iraq, but maintaining the partnership seems to be the best way to overcome the differences. This is what the current Turkish government is trying to achieve by working on strategic fine-tuning and expanding the bilateral cooperation with the United States. This policy is compatible with US interests and goals. Washington realizes that it needs Turkey and puts Turkey into an important category in its foreign relations. There was speculation that Turkey's geo-strategic importance had been reduced after the Iraq war in the eyes of the US. This has proven to be false. The Bush administration treats Turkey as an important factor in its global and regional policy. The need for change in the Islamic world, which is supported by the AKP government, is a very important policy for the Bush administration. Some problems remain, of course, but it is a matter of time for them to be eliminated as well. The strategic fine-tuning taking place in Washington this week, however, is a very important step which will keep the Turkish-American partnership on track."

DEUTSCH